

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. VII, No. 12, November, 1909

From Some Editorial Notes:

The State Board of Health.—... When town governments come to a full understanding of these principles, when corporations learn that their fulfillment is an economic investment, when boards of trade realize that the health of their community is their best card, we can expect results which will be little short of marvelous. In this work the State Board of Health expects the help of every physician; a strong, active support, not a passive sympathy. It is often the case that the individual physician does not realize what a power he can exert in his own community and his influence is never greater than when it concerns questions of the public health.

Explanation and Thanks.—Since July the editor has been unable to do any work on the journal. In that month he met with an accident which resulted in a fractured skull, and strict orders not to attempt to do any work for at least two or three months. As he has led a rather active—if not at times strenuous—life for some years, this enforced idleness was decidedly irksome. Nevertheless, it was quite evident that nature would enforce the orders of the surgeons, and so he has not attempted to do very much. But misfortune is not always unmixed with compensation. Friends appeared at once, and they were of the real sort. The Publication Committee, largely through the very kindly offices of Doctor Lartigau, took entire charge of the journal and they have done everything in the matter of preparing copy, editorials, etc., and seeing that the journal was properly made up each month. . . .

The Extent of Squirrel Plague.—Last month the journal commented upon the prevalence of plague among the ground squirrels of Contra Costa and Alameda counties and the efforts which were being made by Dr. W. C. Rucker of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service and his small corps of assistants to eradicate it. . . . About one per cent of all squirrels examined at the laboratory are infected. Doctor McCoy, who has charge of this work, believes that the disease has existed in these regions for a long period. It is problematical just how far down the coast the infection extends, although it may be added that plague squirrels have been found in all counties in which an extensive search has been made. . . .

From an article on "Postoperative Phlebitis" by Charles G. Levison, M.D., San Francisco.

To have assured a patient that a proposed operation is free from danger, and then to find after its performance that the individual is invalidated perhaps for months, is an experience that must cause the greatest concern to any surgeon, and yet it is an experience not infrequent when phlebitis intervenes as a complication. . . .

From an article on "The Medical Side of Headache" by J. Wilson Shiels, M.D., San Francisco.

All headaches are complex and obscure. We have little exact knowledge of the structures wherein pain is felt. We do not know what pain really is. Clinically we desire to believe that the consciousness of pain must be related to the activities of certain nerve cells in the cortex. . . .

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer

News Items

A thorough investigation by the Board of Medical Examiners of the alleged "baby sales," reported by the Department of Social Welfare to the Governor, has failed to disclose any evidence of such sales. At a regular meeting of the board, the following official statement was released to the press:

"A communication recently addressed to the Governor charged that babies were being sold or exchanged by doctors. The consideration being, it was stated, that a person desiring a baby, pay the hospital and doctor's bills.

"Since that time the charge has been thoroughly investigated by the Board of Medical Examiners. Without commenting upon doctors practicing any other form of the healing art and not under jurisdiction of the Board of Medical Examiners, it may be stated that our investigators found that no doctor of medicine was in any way involved in such practice.

"We have invited the public, as well as the Department of Social Welfare, to provide us with information concerning any licentiate of this board, and if we received any legitimate complaint against any doctor of medicine, are prepared to exercise immediate disciplinary measures."

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: William R. Molony, M. D., president; Clark L. Abbott, M. D., vice-president; Charles B. Pinkham, M. D., secretary-treasurer.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners held at the State Capitol, Sacramento, October 15 to 18, inclusive, the following changes in the status of licentiates was made:

Robert V. Baker, M. D., Avalon. License revoked October 16, 1934, based on narcotic charges.

Thomas O. Greig, M. D., Berkeley. License revoked October 17, 1934, based on violation of the terms of his probation imposed October 22, 1930.

John R. U. Campbell, M. D., Dunsmuir, was placed on five years' probation October 16, 1934, without narcotic privileges.

Arthur M. Nelson, M. D., Los Angeles, was placed on five years' probation October 16, 1934, without narcotic privileges. (According to resolution of the Board, Doctor Nelson cannot apply for restoration of narcotic privileges until three years have elapsed.)

James W. Nicholson, M. D., Porterville, was placed on five years' probation October 17, 1934, after hearing of charges of alleged intemperance.

John Marshal Robinson, M. D., Los Angeles, was placed on probation on October 17, 1934, for a period of five years, without narcotic privileges. (The Board voted he will not be entitled to apply for restoration of his narcotic privileges until three years have elapsed.)

Rudolf Rohlfing, M. D., whose license was revoked October 19, 1933, was on October 17, 1934, restored to practice and placed on probation for a period of five years.

Roy F. Ruth, M. D., Los Angeles, whose license was revoked October 19, 1933, was restored to practice on October 17, 1934, and placed on five years' probation without narcotic privileges.

Forty-three graduates of medical schools took the written examination, of which number several were graduates from foreign medical schools, the majority being from Germany.

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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